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NA'AYNI, HAJI AMIN

TO : JWA

REPORT NO. : 774-309

FROM : JMW

DATE : 5 APR. 1947

A paragraph with good content in Arab circles -
 Given below requests that the following information be forwarded to you.

NAFTI'S POSITION IN PALESTINE.

Sources: A) Members and ex-members of Arab Office, plus young liberal or leftist Arabs associated in general with YUSUF NAHAL, Mayor of Jaffa, or with educational fields: (e.g. HALEK HAKKI of Nahla, now with Arab Office, Jerusalem, formerly secretary of Palestine Arab Workers in Nahla; SAMIR SHAMIR, formerly with Arab Office in Washington, now attorney in Haifa - he was once Musa ALAMI's partner in Jerusalem; HUSSEIN KHAMIS, with Arab College in Jerusalem. B) also conversations with HUSSEIN GHORRI and JAMAL HUSSEINI; C) also with JACOB SHIMONI, assistant to the Jewish Agency's Arab expert, Saeed.

1. All sources agree that Nafti's position is strong with Palestine Arabs as a whole, though C says this support is purely political and does not imply support at cost of serious interference with life. Sources in category A generally oppose Nafti except as symbol of national aspirations, and consider that he and Arab Higher Committee do not pay any attention to improvement of social, agricultural or economic conditions of people, concerning themselves only with politics and that 1) largely in terms of their own interests and 2) ineffectively.

2. Nafti's closest advisers and confidants. There are two schools of thought on this: One (including some under A and Source C) say that closest advisers are JAMAL HUSSEINI and HUSSEIN GHORRI. They list also Husif HUSSEINI, son of the Nafti's sister, IMMA HUSSEINI, another nephew of Nafti and a member of AHC, and HUSSEIN HUSSEINI ABU SUUD, another member of AHC. Neither JAMAL or GHORRI is thought to be very able, and GHORRI is particularly criticised, his honesty questioned, his ability regarded as sub-zero. Source C states flatly that GHORRI is working for CID. Rumors to this effect are not uncommon among Arabs as well, and GHORRI is also rumored to have been involved in a nasty escapade from which Nafti's influence extricated him. The second school of thought, which seems better informed and comes largely from Group A, includes HAKKI, SHAMIR, NAHAL himself and other younger Arabs discontented with present leadership but observing it closely. Conversations with well-placed British officers support many of their contentions. This school holds that the Nafti, who is notoriously distrustful and suspicious, has no confidence in JAMAL HUSSEINI, partly because he is MUSA ALAMI's brother-in-law. They say that although JAMAL'S health is indeed bad, it was not ill health that kept him from attending the session of WH. Nafti didn't want him to go, preferred to send Henry CHAM, whom he knows to have no political ambition. He also sent Ghauri, not because he thinks highly of him or trusts his judgment, but because he is sure of his own hold over Ghauri. These sources regard GHORRI as a dishonest bungler, but say definitely that he is not a CID agent. The Nafti's only trusted advisers, with the possible exception of HUSIF HUSSEINI, are HAKKI and ABU SUUD, they say.

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ad 3. All sources agree that Harid has no formal intelligence organization. ^{ad} ~~HAILE GEMEL~~ was, according to ~~HAILE GEMEL~~ and ~~HAILE GEMEL~~, instructed to set up a, but no progress whatever was made. ~~HAILE GEMEL~~ says that Arab primitive village organization is ideally suited to certain types of intelligence as well as to guerrilla activity, so that as soon as there is need, a reasonably effective system will be in hand. ~~HAILE GEMEL~~ himself has several people (names unknown to us) to whom he occasionally assigns specific investigation tasks, such as finding flunkies at the "Liberty" Arab underground group, on which, he told us cheerfully, they failed completely because "Liberty's" organization is so good. But these men are personal body-men and general assistants, nothing more. The Harid keeps himself well informed about Palestine, all agree, by the simple process of seeing every Arab who comes to Egypt from there, no matter what his position or position, and having each report the news, etc. over the coffee cups.

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